

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 7, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1366

Introduced by Assembly Member Lopez

February 27, 2015

An act to add Section 68130.6 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1366, as amended, Lopez. Public postsecondary education: Dream Resource Centers.

Existing law establishes the segments of the public postsecondary education system in the state, including the University of California administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

Existing law—~~requires~~ *provides* that a student, other than a nonimmigrant alien, as defined, who has attended high school in California for 3 or more years, who has graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent thereof, who has registered at or attends an accredited institution of higher education in California not earlier than the fall semester or quarter of the 2001–02 academic year, and who, if he or she is an alien without lawful immigration status, has filed an affidavit, as specified, is exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges and the California State University.

This bill would require the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and would request the University of California, to create Dream Resource Centers on each campus to assist certain students by streamlining access to all available financial aid and academic opportunities for those students. By requiring community colleges to create Dream Resource Centers, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

This bill would authorize the trustees, the board of governors, and the regents to seek and accept on behalf of the state any gift, bequest, devise, or donation whenever the gift and the terms and conditions thereof will aid in the creation and operation of Dream Resource Centers for their respective systems.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to increase enrollment and
- 4 graduation rates among students meeting the requirements of
- 5 Assembly Bill 540 of the 2001–02 Regular Session (Firebaugh,
- 6 Ch. 814) by requiring the creation of Dream Resource Centers at
- 7 public institutions of higher education.
- 8 (b) It is estimated that each year approximately 65,000
- 9 undocumented students graduate from high schools, and while
- 10 California has been a leader in enacting innovative and bold laws
- 11 to provide opportunities for undocumented youth to attain higher
- 12 education, only 20 percent of these students attend college. Many
- 13 undocumented youth and their families are unaware of recent
- 14 policy changes, such as the enactment of Assembly Bill 540 of the
- 15 2001–02 Regular Session, the California Dream Act of 2011, and
- 16 the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), that

1 make college graduation more attainable. Currently, the majority
2 of college campuses do not have a centralized location that provides
3 specialized support services and resources for students meeting
4 the requirements of Assembly Bill 540 of the 2001–02 Regular
5 Session.

6 (c) The creation of Dream Resource Centers would save staff
7 time and resources by streamlining all available financial aid and
8 academic opportunities for students meeting the requirements of
9 Assembly Bill 540 of the 2001–02 Regular Session. These Dream
10 Resource Centers would seek to empower and create a safe and
11 welcoming environment for those students. These centers would
12 increase enrollment, transfer, and graduation rates among this
13 population.

14 (d) A number of college campuses have acknowledged the needs
15 and challenges of these students and have created Dream ~~Resources~~
16 *Resource* Centers. These include: the University of California, Los
17 Angeles; the University of California, Davis; the California State
18 University, Los Angeles; the California State University, Fullerton;
19 and the California State University, Northridge. These centers
20 provide, among other things, informational workshops, legal
21 clinics, information on programs available to undocumented
22 immigrants, and peer mentoring and support services to increase
23 awareness of existing programs and available resources, enhance
24 professional development, and increase employment opportunities.

25 SEC. 2. Section 68130.6 is added to the Education Code, to
26 read:

27 68130.6. (a) The California Community Colleges and the
28 California State University shall, and the University of California
29 is requested to, create Dream Resource Centers on each campus
30 to assist students meeting the requirements set forth in Section
31 68130.5 by streamlining access to all available financial aid and
32 academic opportunities for those students.

33 (b) *Notwithstanding Section 11005 of the Government Code*
34 *and any other law requiring approval by a state officer of gifts,*
35 *bequests, devises, or donations, the Trustees of the California State*
36 *University, the Board of Governors of the California Community*
37 *Colleges, and the Regents of the University of California may seek*
38 *and accept on behalf of the state any gift, bequest, devise, or*
39 *donation whenever the gift and the terms and conditions thereof*

1 *will aid in the creation and operation of Dream Resource Centers*
2 *for their respective systems.*

3 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
4 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
5 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
6 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
7 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.